

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are presented for consideration, with Claims 1 and 13 being independent.

The specification has been amended to correct minor informalities and to improve its idiomatic English form. In doing so, the objections to the specification identified in paragraph 3 of the Office Action have been attended. In addition, a new abstract is being submitted to better set forth the technical aspects of Applicant's invention.

Editorial changes to independent claim 1 and selected dependent claims have been made. It is submitted that these changes do not alter the patentable status of claims 1-12. Claim 13 has been amended to further distinguish Applicant's invention from the cited art.

Initially, Applicant's respectfully traverse the objection to the drawings and requirement that Figure 1 should be labeled as "PRIOR ART." As opposed to being prior art, Figure 1 sets forth a schematic view of the invention, including a radiation image photographing apparatus with a built-in radiation detecting unit. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 1-12 are indicated as containing patentable subject matter and would be allowed if amended to overcome the objections set forth in paragraph 4 of the Office Action. In this regard, the editorial changes attend to the items raised in the Office Action. Additionally, claim 8 has been amended to recite that the second reinforcing plate is located between the support substrate and the radiation detecting panel.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 1-12 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Tago '598. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 13 relates to a radiation image photographing apparatus configured to detect radiation, and includes a radiation detecting panel configured to convert received radiation into an electrical signal, a support substrate configured to support the radiation detecting panel, and a housing configured to contain the radiation detecting panel and the support substrate. As amended, claim 13 recites that the support substrate has a hollow structure formed by a plurality of spaces. A surface of the support substrate is configured to support the radiation detecting panel and is flat.

In accordance with Applicant's claimed invention, a high performance radiation image photographing apparatus can be provided.

The Tago patent relates to a radiation photographing apparatus that includes a support substrate 5 for supporting a radiation detecting panel and a housing 2 for housing the panel and the support substrate. As shown in Figures 1 and 2, the support substrate 5, or first elastic member, is supported on mounting member 4 and is comprised of four bar-like members arranged into a square shape (see Fig. 3).

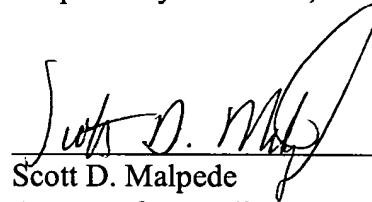
In contrast to Applicant's claimed invention, however, Tago does not teach or suggest, among other features, a support substrate with a hollow structure formed by a plurality of spaces. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

Therefore, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent claims 1 and 13 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent claims 2-12 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott D. Malpede", is written over a horizontal line.

Scott D. Malpede
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 32,533

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

SDM\mm\leab

DC_MAIN 216665v1